

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1, 3-7, and 11-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being anticipated by Yamazaki et al. (US 6,099,672) in view of Tanaka et al. (US 6,137,559), and claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art in view of Ma et al. (US 6,285,434) and Tanaka et al. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 15, all recite, in part, a plurality of liquid crystal injection openings formed along "edge portions" arranged "along vertical and horizontal line directions." In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, the seal openings 315-318 taught by Yamazaki et al. are formed at an offset distance from edge portions of the panel 301. Similarly, the respective openings of the seal patterns 6 taught by Tanaka et al. are each formed at an offset distance from edge portions of the glass substrate 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Yamazaki et al. and Tanaka et al., whether taken singly or combined, neither teach nor suggest Applicants' claimed features of independent claims 1, 7, and 15, and hence dependent claims 2-6, 8-14, and 16-19. In addition, these claimed features are also completely lacking from Applicants' Prior Art FIGs. 1-3 and Ma et al.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-19 are neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied prior art references, whether taken alone or in combination. Applicants respectfully assert that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn because the above-discussed novel combination of features are neither taught nor suggested by any of the applied references, whether taken alone or in combination.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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